

Message Text

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16

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 JUSE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-02 /055 W

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R 032359Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3389

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF CONGRESSMAN GILMAN'S PRESS INTERVIEW
IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

1. AS RESULT OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES THAT APPEARED IN
LA PRENSA AND EXCELSIOR ON SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 1976,
IN WHICH CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN GILMAN (R-NY) STRONGLY
CRITICIZED ADMINISTRATION OF LECUMBERRI PRISON FOR
ALLOWING CORRUPTION, EXTORTION AND PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT
OF PRISONERS, CONOFFS WERE TREATED TO TANTRUM BY
LT. COL. EDELIBERTO GIL CARDENAS, LECUMBERRI CHIEF
OF SECURITY. ARTICLE DESCRIBED GILMAN PRESS INTERVIEW
WHICH TOOK PLACE IN ATLANTA DURING INTERPARLIAMENTARY
CONFERENCE.

2. WHEN CONOFFS PAID COURTESY CALL UPON COL. GIL
PRIOR TO REGULAR PRISON VISIT MARCH 2, THE COLONEL,
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS AUDIENCE OF PRISONERS,
LAWYERS, AND EVERYONE ELSE PRESENT, LAUNCHED INTO A
LONG TIRADE ABOUT "DISHONESTY AND DISCOURTESY" OF
REP. GILMAN AND IMPLIED THAT EMBASSY SHARED
RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS PUBLIC REMARKS. ONE
POINT BROUGHT OUT BY GIL AND REPEATED SEVERAL
TIMES WAS FACT THAT BOTH GENERAL FRANCISCO ARCAUTE
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FRANCO (DIRECTOR OF PRISON) AND HE HAD TRUSTED

GILMAN AND ALLOWED HIM FREE ACCESS TO ENTIRE PRISON WITHOUT ESCORT DURING VISIT. THE COLONEL POINTED OUT THAT A FOREIGN VISITOR TO A U.S. FEDERAL PRISON LIKELY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED SUCH FREEDOM

3. CONOFFS HAVE SINCE LEARNED THROUGH OTHER SOURCES THAT MAYOR OF MEXICO CITY, LICENCIADO SENTIES GOMEZ, HAS BEGUN A PRIVATE INVESTIGATION OF GILMAN'S ALLEGATIONS. (FYI: THERE IS ALREADY AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION OF LECUMBERRI'S ADMINISTRATION DUE TO DWIGHT WORKER'S ESCAPE.)

4. CONOFFS LEARNED THAT GENERAL ARCAUTE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GILMAN WOULD MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS CRITICIZING THE GENERAL'S ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT FIRST EXPRESSING HIS THOUGHTS TO THE GENERAL. THE GENERAL HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE CORDIAL MEETING REPRESENTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND GILMAN, AND HE HAD PRESENTED MRS. GILMAN WITH GIFT AS REMEMBRANCE OF HER TRIP TO MEXICO, FOR WHICH HE WAS NEVER THANKED.

5. XEROX COPIES OF THE ARTICLES ARE BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH TO SCS.
CALDERHEAD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO02854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-0196
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603100/aaaadjzp.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFTERMATH OF CONGRESSMAN GILMAN'S PRESS INTERVIEW IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA
TAGS: CASC, MX, (GILMAN, BENJAMIN A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006